



March 4, 2016

Department of Public Health  
410 Capital Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06134

**RE: Scope of Practice for Athletic Trainers SB356**

Honorable Members of the Public Health Committee, Senator Gerratana and Representative Ritter,

I am writing today in support of SB356 An Act Concerning Athletic Trainers. SB356 would update the current Athletic Trainer practice act to reflect current practice, and allow athletic trainers in Connecticut to practice to the full extent of their knowledge, training, and continuing education. Athletic training, like other sectors of health care, is a profession that is evolving rapidly. Over the years athletic trainers have become a vital part of the spectrum of health care for youth athletes.

The current statute, as written, defines how many times per week someone must participate in an activity to be considered an athlete. Youth athletes often participate less than the required three days per week. Youth athletes, who tend to have relatively high injury rates, would benefit from having increased access to athletic trainers. With changes to the current scope of practice act, athletic trainers would be able to provide better health care to youth athletes. The language of the current scope of practice act, passed in 2000, must be updated to avoid the unintended consequence of limiting the preventative and rehabilitative care available to youth athletes from a trusted professional uniquely qualified to address their needs.

NATA is a professional organization serving more than 42,000 certified athletic trainers, students of athletic training, and other health care professionals. The organization's mission is to enhance the quality of health care provided by certified athletic trainers and to advance the athletic training profession. As the leading organization representing athletic trainers, NATA supports efforts at the state level to keep statutes and regulations relating to athletic trainers updated and relevant to the current practice of the athletic training profession. Please take all available measures to revise the scope of practice for athletic trainers in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Tim Weston M.Ed, ATC  
NATA District One Director  
NATA Board Member  
29 Forest Park  
Waterville, Maine 04901